GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1241
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2001
LINKING OF RIVERS
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry has mooted the National perspective plan for linking various major rivers in the country so that excess water from some rivers could be transferred to deficit basins;

(b) if so, the achievements made so far and the amount spent thereon;

(c) whether the said plan has proved a total failure as there is no consensus amongst the concerned States on implementing the plan;

(d) if so, the new proposal of the Government to implement the plan and the sources through which funds are proposed to be mobilised; and

(e) the number of people likely to be benefited therefrom ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a), (b) & (e) Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Water Resources) andCentral Water Commission have formulated a National Perspective Planfor Water Resources Development which envisages interlinkages among the various Peninsular rivers and the Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from presently assessed surplus basins to water deficit basins for the optimum utilisation of water resources. The Governmentof India has established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) as an Autonomous Society in July, 1982 to carry out the water balance and other studies of the National Perspective Plan.NWDA hascompleted 137 water balance studies of basins/sub-basins, 71 water balance studies at diversion points, 74 toposheet studies of storage reservoirs, 37 toposheet studies of link alignments and 31 prefeasibility studies of links out of which 30 links have been identified for preparation of feasibility reports. Feasibility reports of five links have been completed. The total grants-in-aid released to NWDAtill date is Rs.10488.42 lakhs. The link proposals envisages additional irrigation benefits of 35 million hectares.

(c) & (d) NWDA has already indentified a few smaller links involving only two States for which feasibility reports have been completed and could be taken up for implementation in a phased manner. Implementation of such water transfer link proposals depend on various factors like consensus among the basin States regarding the proposed transfer, preparation of detailed project reports and availability of funds.